

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A circuit for controlling arc energy from an electrosurgical generator, said circuit comprising:

means for receiving an output current generated by the electrosurgical generator; and

a diode-resistor block electrically connected to said means for receiving the output current, said diode-resistor block for limiting the amount of output current for at least one half cycle of the output current.

2. A circuit according to Claim 1, wherein said diode-resistor block is connected in series to said means for receiving the output current.

3. A circuit according to Claim 1, wherein said diode-resistor block is connected in parallel with said means for receiving the output current.

4. A circuit according to Claim 1, wherein said diode-resistor block includes a pair of diodes biased opposite from each other for splitting the output current into two paths.

5. A circuit according to Claim 4, wherein each of the two paths includes one of a resistor and a potentiometer in series with a respective diode of the pair of diodes.

6. A circuit according to Claim 1, further comprising a resistor in series with said diode-resistor block.

7. A circuit according to Claim 1, further comprising a resistor in parallel with said diode-resistor block.

8. An electrosurgical generator for controlling the amount of energy delivered to a patient during electrosurgery on a per arc basis, the electrosurgical generator comprising:

a circuit including:

means for receiving an output current generated by the electrosurgical generator; and

means for limiting the amount of output current for at least one half cycle of the output current.

9. An electrosurgical generator according to Claim 8, wherein said means for limiting the amount of output current for at least one half cycle of the output current includes a diode-resistor block in series with said means for receiving the output current.

10. An electrosurgical generator according to Claim 8, wherein said means for limiting the amount of output current for at least one half cycle of the output current includes a diode-resistor block in parallel with said means for receiving the output current.

11. An electrosurgical generator according to Claim 8, wherein said means for limiting the amount of output current for at least one half cycle of the output current includes a pair of diodes biased opposite from each other for splitting the output current into two paths.

12. An electrosurgical generator according to Claim 11, wherein each of the two paths includes one of a resistor and a potentiometer in series with a respective diode of the pair of diodes.

13. An electrosurgical generator according to Claim 8, further comprising a resistor in series with said means for limiting the amount of output current for at least one half cycle of the output current.

14. An electrosurgical generator according to Claim 8, further comprising a resistor in parallel with said means for limiting the amount of output current for at least one half cycle of the output current.

15. A method for controlling arc energy from an electrosurgical generator, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving an output current generated by the electrosurgical generator;

and

limiting the amount of output current for at least one half cycle of the output current.

16. A method according to Claim 15, wherein said step for limiting the amount of output current for at least one half cycle of the output current comprises the step of providing a diode-resistor block in series with the output current.

17. A method according to Claim 15, wherein said step for limiting the amount of output current for at least one half cycle of the output current comprises the step of providing a diode-resistor block in parallel with the output current.

18. A method according to Claim 15, wherein said step for limiting the amount of output current for at least one half cycle of the output current comprises the step of splitting the output current into two paths using a pair of diodes biased opposite from each other.

19. A method according to Claim 18, further comprising the step of providing in each of the two paths one of a resistor and a potentiometer in series with a respective diode of the pair of diodes.

20. A method according to Claim 19, further comprising the step of varying the resistive value for one of the resistor and the potentiometer.